



Front Country Trails
Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 6, 2008
5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Barbara

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Forsell called the regular meeting of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force to order at 5:31 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Task Force Member Longstreet

ROLL CALL: Task Force Members Present:

Steve Forsell	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
Suzanne Perkins	County Parks Commissioner 1st District
Beebe Longstreet	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
James Hickling	County Parks Commissioner 3rd District
Bruce Emmens	Public Use & Facilities Staff Officer Los Padres National Forest
Jeff Bensen	District Recreation Officer Los Padres National Forest

City of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Kathy Frye	Associate Park/Natural Areas Planner
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

County of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Erik Axelson	Deputy Parks Director
Claude A. Garciacelay	ASLA, Park Planner

Los Padres National Forest Staff Present

Kyle Kinport	Assistant Recreation Officer, Santa Barbara Ranger District
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CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

1. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-jurisdictional Task Force waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special work session of November 17, 2007.

Chair Forsell asked that the heading of the minutes be corrected to read "Special Work Session" versus "Regular Meeting"

Motion:

Task Force Members Perkins/Longstreet that the Task Force approve the minutes of the special work session of November 17, 2007, as amended.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

2. **Management Recommendations for the Front Country Trails – For Action (Attachment 2)**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force) forward the Management Recommendations for the Front Country Trails to the Los Padres National Forest Supervisor, City Park and Recreation Commission, and County Parks Commission.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: Steven Dougherty, Jim Childress, Allyson Biskner, Dave Everett, Via Obern

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Forsell commended Ms. Zachary on the organization of the material.
- Task Force Member Hickling commented that staff did an extraordinary job putting these recommendations together. Speaking about TRAIL MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE, Recommendation 1, Mr. Hickling said that he recommends that Recommendation 1: *"Conduct an*

assessment of existing trail conditions and use to evaluate the feasibility of developing a trail classification system.” be changed to read ““Conduct an assessment of existing trail conditions and use to evaluate the application of and scope of developing a trail classification system.” He said those words are action and result oriented words, as opposed to the word “feasibility”.

- Task Force Member Longstreet commented on the trail user assessment, recommending that the group take their time to make sure how the trails are used throughout the season to get a true picture of who is on the trails and when.
- Task Force Member Perkins urged caution, saying she would not like to see the trail assessment evaluation be predicated solely on the user groups. She said that it is important that a trail itself be evaluated, in conjunction with the trail user survey.
- Task Force Member Forsell asked regarding ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION, Recommendation 4. *Establish an inter-agency FCT Coordinator Position*, what kind of authority the person would have?
 - Ms. Zachary said that the discussion has been focused on having a dedicated person to move forward with implementation of the recommendations; work with non-profit groups; make sure the three agencies are coordinating; and to be the “owner” of the strategy and funding plan. Ms. Zachary said that when staff begins to scope what that might be, and has the discussion at the Task Force level, they can consider the responsibilities of the position.
- Task Force Member Forsell commented that he recalls that if fees were collected for the commercial operations, for use, or from violations, the money could be given directly to the Forest Service and be kept locally. He asked whether there is a mechanism for doing that. He said, that at the Special Work session, it was discussed that there was a mechanism for the City and County to collect the fees and designate them for the Forest Service in the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County without it having to go to the Federal government.
 - Mr. Emmens and Benson said they were unaware of that.
- Mr. Forsell asked that be looked into. He said at this point it won't be crucial, but at some point, when funding is needed, it could be imperative.
 - Ms. Zachary said that if staff were to explore the ability to collect some sort of revenue at the local level, the intent would be that it would be kept at the local level.
- Task Force Member Forsell, stated regarding TRAIL MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE, Recommendation 4 – *Pilot Program with Trail Use Designation*, that he is opposed to the even/odd days and opposed to single use days within the week.
- Task Force Member Hickling suggested the Task Force make a recommendation that the FCT Coordinator staff position be a City or

County employee. He said he does not think it practical that the person be an employee of the Forest Service.

- Task Force Member Emmens said that the person could be hired by any of the three agencies and would take direction from any of the three agencies, working under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Task Force Member Hicking concurred and said the MOU could clarify that.
- Task Force Member Perkins said the County Parks Commission is very involved with the trails, and County staff is very familiar with trail issues. Ms. Perkins said it is important the Forest Service has their own set of regulations that need to be coordinated with the City and the County.
- Task Force Member Longstreet commented that there will need to be a detailed assessment of what it costs the agency that houses that person, because there is staff support that goes with any position, and that is going to be more and more important in the next couple of budget years, as all of the agencies are facing cutbacks.
 - Ms. Zachary said that she might recommend that be a subsequent MOU to the one initially developed, and staff might come back with that recommendation. Ms. Zachary said the foremost goal is to establish the partnership and broad priorities, and funding commitments.
- Task Force member Emmens said the MOU could address that the three agency representatives would give direction to the position, and could make an addendum at a later date identifying which agency oversees the position.
- Task Force Members Forsell and Perkins concurred.
- Task Force Member Forsell commented regarding the Draft Matrix, that he is hopeful that things would move along well, the time could be compressed, and more could be accomplished during this calendar year.
- Task Force Member Hickling pointed out that Interim voluntary trail use guidelines should be implemented by June 2008, which means there will be improved coexistence, and that is a positive situation.
- Task Force Member Benson said that although the Matrix goes through to 2010, there are many actions that will be accomplished throughout the whole time frame.
- Task Force Member Forsell concurred with a quarterly meeting schedule.
- Task Force Member Perkins stressed that public safety, resource protection, and avoidance of user conflicts are critical. With respect to the trail rating system, she agreed with some of the speakers in that there are some interim recommendations that could go into effect sooner, rather than later. Ms. Perkins said that working with the user groups we could come up with policies.
- Task Force Member Forsell asked Ms. Perkins if she means that there are some particular trails that the matrix would be designed to have the items done in a more expeditious time frame.
 - Ms. Perkins clarified saying that there are some trails that are more easily adaptable toward all user groups than other trails, such as the

Cold Springs Trail versus the Cat Way Trail. She said considerations should be given to those trails where something could be implemented sooner rather than later.

- Task Force Member Forsell agreed about the diversity of the trails but questioned whether the trails could be dealt with either outside of the matrix or in a different time frame.

Motion:

Task Force members Longstreet/Hickling that the Task Force accept the staff recommendations and plan as it stands.

Task Force Member Hickling asked that the change he asked for to TRAIL MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE, Recommendation 1: *“Conduct an assessment of existing trail conditions and use to evaluate the feasibility of developing a trail classification system.”* Specifically, that it be changed to read *““Conduct an assessment of existing trail conditions and use to evaluate the application of and scope of developing a trail classification system”* be incorporate into the motion as an amendment.

Task Force Member Longstreet accepted Mr. Hickling’s amendment.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

3. Memorandum of Understanding Considerations – For Discussion (Attachment 3)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force) discuss potential elements of an inter-agency memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Claude A. Garciacelay, ASLA, Park Planner, Santa Barbara County

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Longstreet asked that bullet point 5 under “Statement of Work/Responsibility” address resource management.
- Task Force Member Hickling said that something significant in the Santa Monica MOU was the other agencies, specifically, the non-profits. He recommended that the Task Force use a similar criterion as ways to get community input to the MOU like the very successful Santa Monica Mountains MOU. Mr. Hickling said that some of them have existed in the

County for years. Mr. Hickling asked that these recommendations be brought to the June meeting.

- Task Force Member Perkins commented that the SBMTV have been members of CRATAC for many years and they do a great deal of work on the back and front country trails. She further said the Montecito Trails Foundation has been a predominant front country trails group. Ms. Perkins said they are the two organizations that she knows.
 - Mr. Garciacelay responded saying the initial MOU will be between the agencies. He said it needs to be structured that way in order to determine how the agencies will work together. He said that part of the MOU will be to determine the basis for and coordination of agreement between the agencies and other entities such as non-profit trail organizations and/or advocacy groups.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

At 6:50 p.m., Task Force members Perkins/Longstreet that the Task Force meeting be adjourned.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director